THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

April, 2023 Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SPRING 2023

Spring has arrived! Daffodils, forsythia, pear trees, and magnolias are blooming, and trees are starting to leaf out. These events all seem early this year and they've been coupled with some intense storms in our part of the country. One cannot help but wonder whether this is the new normal for climate and how birds, especially Neotropical migrants, might fare under such rapidly changing scenarios. TOS remains committed to avian conservation; I am proud of the work that TOS and many of our members do to protect native birds and their habitats. In just the past two weeks, TOS has signed on to letters to support the Farm Bill – a major source of conservation funding – and calling for the EPA to protect non-target wildlife, including California Condors, from rodenticides. The challenges for conservation are many, and TOS continues to play a role in turning the tide. Our members and financial positioning allow TOS to continue to fund small grants to support research and conservation of Tennessee's birds. Membership numbers are still high, and TOS remains in a solid financial position. TOS continues to be a strong organization, and I look forward to the ongoing work that we do to understand and conserve birds and to share our interests with others.

I am also grateful for the many friendships that I've made through TOS and look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Meeting. **Nashville will host the TOS Spring Meeting April 28th – 30th**. The weather and birding should be great, and we'll have a full weekend of birding, fun, and community. Please register and join us!

I wish all of you a happy Spring, and I hope to see many of you in April at the Spring Meeting in Nashville.

Warmly,
Michael Collins
President, TOS

2023 TOS State Spring Meeting

Nashville, April 28-30, 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Nashville chapter of TOS will be hosting the Annual Spring TOS State Meeting, April 28-30, 2023. Friday night registration and reception will be held at the conference hotel, The Hampton Inn Ashland City, from 5-7:30 pm. The Saturday afternoon board meeting will be held at Bells Bend Outdoor Center at 4187 Old Hickory Blvd, Nashville, 37218

The Hampton Inn Ashland City is located at 1609 Hwy 12 South, Ashland City, 37015. Phone: 615-845-1609 The hotel is reserving a block of rooms for TOS members through March 28, 2023, at a special rate of $139 for King or Queen. Link to reserve your room here: Tennessee Ornithological Society (hilton.com) If you call for a reservation, please mention that you are a TOS member and confirm the special rate. Breakfast is included.

The Saturday night reception and program will be held at the Green Door Gourmet, 7007 River Road Pike, Nashville, 37209. https://www.greendoorgourmet.com This farm-to-table venue has ties to TOS, as it is the home of Albert Ganier III and his wife, Sylvia, grandchildren of one of the TOS founders, Albert Ganier Sr. Happy Hour will be from 4:30-6 pm with a cash bar. You will be able to browse and shop at the Green Door's farm store and enjoy historical displays. Dinner will be at 6pm followed by our keynote speaker.

Our speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Noah Strycker. https://noahstrycker.com Noah is an ornithologist, 2004 ABA Young Birder of the Year, and global Big Year adventurer. His 2017 book, *Birding Without Borders* is a personal account of his epic quest in 2015 to see more than half of the planet's bird species in a single year. We will have a limited number of books available at the banquet for purchase, or you may bring your previously purchased copy for Noah to sign. We also look forward to birding with Noah on our field trips throughout the weekend.

Field Trips are still being finalized but will include the Green Door Farm property along the Cumberland, directly across the river from Bells Bend Park. Nearby birding hot spots Beaman Park and The Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail will most likely be on the menu as well.

For additional information contact Cyndi Routledge: routledges@bellsouth.net

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TOS SPRING MEETING 2023 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s)_____TOS Chapter_____

Address_____ Phone_____

_____ e-mail_____

$_____ for _____Meeting Registrations @ $10 each

$_____ for _____Dinner Reservations @ $35 each

$_____Total payable to Nashville TOS

Via Mail: Pam Lasley, NTOS Treasurer

5886 Willshire Dr

Nashville, TN 37215

On-line payment: Click the yellow "Donate" Button here: https://www.nashvillebirds.org/donate Please include the above information in the note. A PayPal account is NOT required. Contact plasley@comcast.net for registration questions.

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATA DUE

Christmas bird count data are due as soon as possible to allow me to get my report in to the editor of *The Migrant* in a timely fashion. Besides the actual count data, please be sure to include the following effort data:

1 - Hours and miles by car, foot, and any night-birding

2 - Number of observers and parties

3 - Any feeder watching hours & names

4 - Start and end times for the count

5 - Weather data for the count

6 - Names of all the participants

If you do not have a local compiler, you can send the data directly to me at the address/email below.

TOS appreciates your efforts to record and track our bird populations and abundance. Thanks for helping us to archive this data for future generations and researchers.

Ron Hoff • TOS State Count Compiler
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

TENNESSE STATE NATURAL AREAS

On May 4, 1971, the Tennessee State Legislature passed the "Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971" (T.C.A. 11-14-101). The Act provides statutory authority for the protection in perpetuity of designated state natural areas. Within two years the Tennessee Natural Areas Program was established to provide oversight and management of Tennessee designated state natural areas. The Program administers the Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971.There were fifteen original State Natural Areas named. Members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society were active in getting a number of the areas designated as such.

May 4, 2023 will mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the State Natural Areas Program. Celebrations are planned across the state on that date and throughout the year. Hopefully TOS members will join the activities at any of the eighty-five State Natural Areas nearby or across the state.
https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/na-natural-areas/list-of-natural-areas.html

Here in Nashville the TOS Chapter will continue to support and enjoy Radnor Lake State Natural Area with our 44th year of Wednesday walks, Spring and Fall Bird Counts, the Christmas Bird Count, and our monthly meetings. We owe a debt of gratitude to those citizens and members who helped preserve these areas. The Tennessee State Natural Areas are truly a treasure chest of wonders.

Susan Hollyday, NTOS

READY, SET, GO…GLOBAL BIG DAY 2023

Saturday, May 13th is the date for the 2023 Global Big Day. This is an annual event for bird watchers around the globe to report the birds they see and hear during a single 24 hour period. The data collected is entered through eBird, and is an important source for scientists studying bird population trends.

Last year, Global Big Day brought birders together virtually from more countries than ever before. More than 51,000 people from 201 countries submitted 132,000 checklists with eBird, setting new world records for a single day of birding. Will you help us surpass last year's records?

There is no minimum observation time required in order to submit your observations. Whether a checklist covers five or ten minutes, or several hours, all the data is valuable. Observers are encouraged to enter multiple checklists during the day.

Don't have an eBird account? It is easy to set up and easy to use. Get started at: www.ebird.org.

Additional information is available at: www.ebird.org/globalbigday

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2023

The 26th Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was conducted February 17th through February 20st. What started as a true backyard count has evolved into a global effort to add to our knowledge of bird populations and their distribution.

Using eBird to submit their checklists, an estimated 555,291 observers from 202 countries entered 390,652 checklists. Observers reported 7,553 species, two thirds of the world's 10,906 species. Observers in the United States submitted 236,904 checklists, followed by India (57,774) and Canada (33,051). Observers in Columbia reported the most species (1,315), followed by Ecuador (1,106), India (1,072), Brazil (959), and Mexico (813). Observers in The United States reported 666 species, which ranked 10th among nations. Tennessee bird watchers submitted 3,702 checklists, containing 146 species. At least one checklist was submitted from 89 of our 95 counties. Davidson County birders submitted the most checklists (388) followed by Shelby (362), Knox (332), Hamilton (288) and Williamson (211). Shelby County observers reported the most species (104) just beating Humphrey's (102) and Hamilton (101). Blount (96) and Knox (95) rounded out the top five.

Among individuals, Roi and Debbie Shannon submitted 54 checklists, followed by Janie Finch (41) and Melissa Turrentine (36). Ruben Stoll reported the most species with 124, followed closely by Alan Troyer (122) and Daniel Redwine (121). Roi and Debbie Shannon tallied 95.
The most unusual species reported in Tennessee was a Burrowing Owl. Exotic/escapees that did not make the official list included Mute Swan, Muscovy Duck and Egyptian Goose.

The 27th GBBC will be held February 16th through February 19th, 2024.

More information may be found at: www.birdcount.org

Editor's note: Totals are as of press time. Minor changes can be expected.

Southeastern Avian Winter Hummingbird Report 2022-23 Season

By Cyndi Routledge

Three year-old return female Rufous Hummingbird. Photo taken in November of 2020 in Davidson county by Bill Taylor the host, and banded by Cyndi Routledge.

We had a relatively slow winter season this year in comparison to recent years. In checking with our northern and southern colleagues, they either experienced the same or had a very late start to the season.

SEAR encountered three distinct species this winter. The majority were Rufous. We also had one adult male Allen's Hummingbird that was banded prior to the official start of the winter season, and a very late immature Ruby-throat. Most notably, however, were our return winter birds with a total of five individuals. Four that are back for their second year, and one female back for her third winter. All these were Rufous Hummingbirds: four females and one male. In total, SEAR officially processed 10 winter hummingbirds during the 2022-23 winter season.

The sub-freezing temperatures we experienced at Christmas were a challenge for both our winter hummingbirds and their hosts. Supplemental lights, heated feeders and frequent feeder changes became the norm. Three of the 5 'return' birds made it through and are still present as of this writing. One return hummer departed a couple weeks prior to the sub-freezing temps, and the other made it through 2 nights and was last seen flying off mid-day on the 3rd day of the unusual cold. We can only assume she perished unless she returns next season. The other 5 newly banded hummingbirds all departed prior to the onset of the frigid temperatures. Some within days of banding and the rest by Thanksgiving.

Additionally, we had reports of another 4 Rufous Hummingbirds that were photographed and reported to us or on eBird. These individuals went un-banded due to access issues, length of stay or host's desire not to have them disturbed.

An accounting of all these winter hummingbirds has been sent to *The Migrant* editor for the Season's Report, to Graham Gerdeman for the NAB report, to eBird and, of course, the Bird Banding Lab.

A most special thank-you to all our hummer hosts for their dedication to these winter hummingbirds. It was an especially challenging year. I'd also like to thank all who kept out feeders, watched for winter visitors and reported them to us. We couldn't do our research without you!!

DONATIONS, MEMORIAL, AND HONORARIA
Pam Lasley, TOS Treasurer

TOS has received the following donations, memorial, and honoraria in the past year:

In memory of Dr. William Vesely
Vicki Sikes

In memory of Larry Routledge
Brenda Huskey

In memory of Barbara Wilson
Kate and Robert Gooch

In memory of Bettye W Garrison
Lee and Loren Powell

In memory of Barb Stedman
Janie Finch

In appreciation for Discover Birds Activity Books
Sandra Ehrilchman, Southaven, MS Wild Birds Unlimited
Michelle Logan, Little Rock, AR

General Donations
Jennifer and Jay Mills Donor Advised Fund

Volunteer Opportunity – MailChimp Manager

We use MailChimp to send our newsletter, *The Tennessee Warbler*, welcome e-mails to new At Large members, and occasionally other notices to our TOS membership.

We are looking for someone who is experienced in MailChimp to send out our electronic communications and explore all of the messaging options available to us. The MailChimp Manager would also be responsible for maintaining the MailChimp contact list with the help of the Treasurer.

If this sounds like a good fit for you to assist our organization, contact Pam Lasley plasley@comcast.net or 615-498-8840

WOOD STORK DELISTING?

Wood Stork is a species that faced a grim future when it was originally listed in 1984 under the Endangered Species Act. The population decreased from 20,000 nesting pairs to less than 5,000 pairs, primarily nesting in south Florida's Everglades and Big Cypress ecosystems.

After three decades, successful conservation and recovery efforts prompted the species' downlisting from Endangered to Threatened in June 2014.

Today, the Wood Stork breeding population has doubled to 10,000 or more nesting pairs and increased its range to include the coastal plains of Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. These long-legged wading birds more than tripled their number of nesting colonies from 29 to 99 in their expanded range. Fortunately, they have adapted to new nesting areas, moving north into coastal salt marshes, old flooded rice fields, floodplain forest wetlands, and human-created wetlands.

Now, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposes to remove the Wood Stork's southeast U.S. distinct population segment (DPS) from listing. This proposal is based on data indicating that the species may no longer meet the definition of an Endangered or Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

The USFWS will accept comments on this action received or postmarked on or before 17 April 2023. Specifics on this process and other details can be found inside this informative FAQ page:
https://www.fws.gov/story/2023-02/wood-stork-proposed-delisting.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin March 2023

You can access an archive of past E-Bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA):
https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin.

A SAD ENDING

On August 25, 2022, a Eurasian Marsh-Harrier was discovered and photographed on North Island, Maine. That furnished the first verified (photographed) record for North America (there is a sight record from Virginia in 1994). The bird was seen around Maine, and finally in New Jersey on November 8.

On November 19, a United Airlines 737 from Chicago, on its final approach to Newark International Airport, hit a bird at about 3,000 feet above ground, about nine miles from the runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration released a report toward the end of January indicating this bird was identified "by both DNA and whole feathers" as a Eurasian Marsh-Harrier. The odds of this happening to this particular bird are astronomical.

For more details, see this fine summary in a piece by Matt Mendenhall, editor of "Birdwatching."
https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/news/birdwatching/tragic-ending-for-a-mega-rare-marsh-harrier.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin March 2023

In Memory of Starr Klein

The loss of long-time member Starr Klein saddens the Chattanooga Chapter of the TOS. Starr was one of the first members of TOS that I met when I joined TOS in the early 1980s. For years, Starr and I would participate in Christmas Counts. Starr would meet me somewhere at sunrise and stay for the duration. I was always impressed with her knowledge of birds and especially bird sounds. Starr was always a consistently calm, positive birder who would gladly take time to assist less experienced birders. When she retired from work, she served as a board member of the local club as coordinator for field trips, and she began working at one of our local Wild Bird stores. She enjoyed helping others learn about birding. Her steady calm presence is missed.

Danny Gaddy, on behalf of the Chattanooga Chapter

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jeanne Payne

The Memphis Chapter lost member Jeanne Payne, on February 13 at the age of 76. A member since 1989, Jeanne is survived by her husband and chapter member George R. Payne, Jr., her son Scott Kirkpatrick, IV, four grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

She and George met while both served as docents at the Ramesses the Great Exhibition as part of the Wonders Series. Many chapter members remember their wedding. Jeanne was an active chapter member for many years, attending meetings and participating in birding field trips and CBCs. A graduate of Germantown High School, Jeanne worked as an accountant for Dobbs international and later worked for the University of Memphis Civil Engineering Department.

Jeanne enjoyed being with her family, reading, cooking, entertaining, traveling, watching professional soccer and University of Memphis basketball, going to the theater and the zoo, decorating for the holidays, listening to music, studying Egyptian archaeology, birdwatching, and volunteering at her church and at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens as a docent.

Margaret Jefferson, Memphis Chapter

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRDING KINGSPORT activities included a morning of birding at Susan & Mike Hubley's home on John Sevier Lake on a beautiful day in mid-November. We enjoyed coffee and breakfast treats while socializing then birding from their dock and all around their property. We had a delightful holiday social in late November. On December 3, eight volunteers participated in Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place, a living history farm, recapturing life in the early 1800's. We handed out Discover Bird Activity Books to children. Exchange Place provided a tree with bird "treats" and nesting materials. On December 16, we had 19 observers participate in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count. 70 species were reported. We held a waterfowl field trip in observance of the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 13 to several locations - Holston River Weir Dam, Osceola Island, South Holston Dam, and Musick's Campground. From the trail on Osceola Island, we were treated to a couple of male Buffleheads performing a courtship display. We had an immature Bald Eagle fly over our heads at this location and also observed a Bald Eagle on the nest at Musick's. On a gorgeous weather day in late February, Birding Kingsport members were invited back to the Hubley's. We ended the morning with 48 species which included seven species of ducks. On February 27, nine participants traveled to Burke's Garden in Virginia. This area was first surveyed in 1748. The entire valley is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We had an awesome morning of birding – we had good looks at a Golden Eagle, a Red-headed Woodpecker, and observed four Sandhill Cranes fly in as we were looking at American Pipits and Horned larks. We also saw a lot of Eastern Meadowlarks and Wilson's Snipes. We tallied 48 species.

Our January program featured Kera Brewster, co-owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Johnson City. She presented "The Five Steps to Bird Feeding Mastery" from *The Joy of Bird Feeding*. Kera and George brought a great display of their products. They gave away door prizes, too! Our February program featured Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers presenting "Hummingbirds – A Closer Look at the World's Third Largest Group of Birds". Ron always presents a great program. He and Dollyann are such an inspiration to those of us who love birding.

We were saddened to lose Birding Kingsport members John Moyle who passed away on February 7 and Bill Little on February 14.

Leadership Team

The **BRISTOL BIRD CLUB** (BBC) participated in three Christmas bird counts in late December and early January. They include the Glade Spring area where 27 participants led by Ron Harrington counted 67 species of birds on December 27. The second was the Bristol Christmas Bird Count where 15 participants led by Richard Lewis on January 1 counted 84 species. The third count was of the Shady Valley/Mountain City areas where 8 participants led by Rob Biller on December 28 counted 57 species. Bird counts are a great way for us to monitor environmental trends in our local area, identify potential issues and share data with other organizations. Thanks to all who participated!

Bristol Bird Club joined the Elizabethton Bird Club for a trip to Burke's Garden on February 18. Burke's Garden is Virginia's highest bowl-shaped valley carved out of the top of a mountain. There were 17 participants on this trip. Joe McGuiness led the trip and reported a final total of 38 species with great finds such as a Loggerhead Shrike, Wilson's Snipes, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. It was a great day with a bit of cool but sunny weather.

Other upcoming activities for the BBC are a waterfowl trip on March 11, a trip to western Washington County where we find Horned Larks, American Pipits, Lapland Longspurs, Northern Harriers and other raptors. It is a great place to bird, and all are looking forward to this trip – more information coming soon. We also have monthly second Thursday walks at Steele Creek Park (a Bristol city park) usually beginning at 8:00 a.m. You never know what you might find on these outings, but always a good time with our Bristol birders. Spring outings will soon be scheduled at one of our favorite warbler sites, Jacobs Nature Park. Come join the Bristol Bird Club on these outings. Information on upcoming outings can be found on our Facebook website, Bristol Birds. We would love to have you join Bristol Birds on future outings!

Debi Campbell, Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS

Without a Vice President for Programs, David Stone has stepped up and is organizing the **CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER** programs until June, when we elect new officers. Programs for the first half of 2023 are as follows:

- January 12 - Clyde Blum, Local Birding
- February 9 - Dr. David DesRochers, Hawaiian Birds
- March 9 - Mel Vandergriff, Birding Magee Marsh & Surrounding Area
- April 13- Luke Thompson, Birding at Baylor School
- May 11 - Andrew Meador, Birding & Biomimicry
- June 8 - Eliot Berz, Kingfishers

After several years, Gary Brunvoll is stepping down as Vice President for Field Trips. OJ Morgan will be taking his place. It is a pleasure to see our Chapter offering a diverse array of programs and field trips.

OJ Morgan has been a member of CTOS for about eight years. He was a career educator in Chattanooga as a teacher and administrator, with 25 years at Baylor School and 17 years as Bright School's Head of School. The CTOS field trips and their leaders piqued his interest in birding, so he has subsequently made birding a big part of his retirement, traveling in the U.S. and abroad (South Africa, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Alaska, and throughout the Southeast). He says, "The more I learn, the more I realize I don't know. It keeps me going! And I especially enjoy the collegiality among fellow birders.

Ray Zimmerman, Newsletter Editor

OJ Morgan, VP for Field Trips - Photo by Mary Hull

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** has continued to have in-person meetings and events. Speakers for the monthly meetings have included Chuck Estes on birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, club members presenting photos of their bird sightings and travels, Don Hazel of the Tennessee Bluebird Society, and Dr. Louis Gross from the University of Tennessee discussing avian population modeling. Upcoming meetings will provide information on the development of Knoxville's Urban Forest Master Plan and explore the world of hummingbirds.

KTOS members participated in numerous Christmas Bird Counts, including the East Knox County CBC, Norris CBC, Great Smoky Mountain CBC, Knoxville CBC, and Cades Cove CBC. Field trips continue to be well attended. Outings so far this year have included Seven Islands State Birding Park January 10 (leader Kirk Huffstater), Hiwassee Ocoee State Wildlife Refuge to see the Sandhill Cranes February 12 (leader Sheila Rygwelski), and Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area on February 19 (leader Jacob Wessels). KTOS members are gearing up for a busy birding season and looking forward to spring migration.

Possible plans for getting more involved with area events, groups, and schools have been discussed at meetings. KTOS has been asked to help with a Spring Hike and educating visitors about this year's Bird of the Year, the Eastern Towhee, at Seven Islands State Birding Park on March 18, and members are part of the advisory board helping develop an Urban Forest Master Plan for Knoxville.

Stephanie Mueller, Secretary

July 15th Deadline

The deadline date for the August issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is July 15th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

Theresa Graham, Editor
PO Box 366, Oakland TN 38060
(901) 489-0795
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

CHAPTER NEWS

The **MEMPHIS CHAPTER** was host to three excellent programs since our last report.

In December, Dr. Jerad Henson of Christian Brothers University presented a program on the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks at Ensley Bottoms. Dr. Henson and his students have been responsible for the nesting boxes at Ensley, where he has banded over 70 of that species. Dr. Henson expressed optimism regarding continuance of the program and the viability of this select population.

In January, we were treated to a talk by Mary Schmidt, the curator of the Backyard Wildlife Center at Lichterman Nature Center, an intraurban oasis which encompasses 65 acres of lake, meadow, and forest. She discussed the many and varied programs at the Wildlife Center and thanked the Memphis Chapter for the prior donations of a Chimney Swift tower and binoculars for visitor use. Ms. Schmidt reviewed various plantings whose purpose is to attract bird and other wildlife.

The February program was provided by chapter member and artist Jennalyn Speer, whose topic centered on the cultural significance of birds. It was a fascinating discussion regarding birds and how they interface and are interpreted by various cultures around the world. Her presentation incorporated stunning visual images of her own creation, depicting both regional and exotic species and their significance in and to those cultures.

The chapter voted for and passed resolutions for donations to both the Mid-South Raptor Center and the Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Additionally, a donation was voted on and passed regarding a bluebird project at Collierville High School following a presentation by student and chapter member, Lynn Hui.

Everyone was encouraged to participate in the upcoming Spring statewide meeting in Nashville.

Sadly, we lost one of our long-time members, Ms. Jeanne Payne who is survived by her husband and chapter member, George Payne.

Jim Varner, President

The **NASHVILLE CHAPTER** cordially invites you to the Annual TOS Spring Meeting on April 28-30 here in Nashville. Information and registration for the event can be found within this newsletter. We hope you'll join us and help us welcome keynote speaker Noah Strycker. Let's show him some good old-fashioned, southern birder hospitality!

This new year started with our annual New Year's Day 'Lake' count coordinated by Richard Conners. Many thanks to those who took part and counted. There's no better way to start off the year than counting birds!

Mike Smith has kept us busy this winter planning wonderful field trips to search for our area winter specialties. On a somewhat related note, Mike is in charge of field trips for the TOS Spring Meeting. If you're interested in giving him a hand in either leading or co-leading a trip, please contact him to let him know. He can be reached at ms722@bellsouth.net, and please put "TOS Field Trip" as the subject line.

And speaking of counting birds, our annual Spring Bird Count of Davidson County will take place on Saturday, May 6th. If you're in the area and interested, contact Barbara Harris, the spring count coordinator, and let her know of your interest. harrbarbara@bellsouth.net

Happy spring and see you in Nashville in April!!
Cheers!
Cyndi Routledge

Reprinted from *The Tennessee Warbler*, Spring 1991. Warbler Editor: Jim Finney

Editor's (Finney) Note: The following poem is printed by the request of those who heard the author present it during the fall symposium (1990).

To The Carolina Wren

Hail to thee, blithe bird!
Throughout the whole year heard.
Even in hot August dreer,
Though some at thee might sneer,
Thy cheery song we hear,
With chortling accents clear.

Though offered nesting houses nice,
Thus hoping we can thee entice,
You rarely choose to use them twice,
But a tisket and a tasket
You will use my flower basket,
Or storage box in my garage,
You often choose to be your lodge.

Who else among our birds is found,
So often when we're homeward bound,
With that loud, strong, ringing sound,
Cheadle, cheadle, cheadle cheet,
Tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle teet?
In our own backyard quite near,
Or far away in woodlands dear,
Again we pause, thy song to hear.
And for absent singers shed a tear.

George R. Mayfield, Jr.

Dr. George Radford Mayfield, Jr. ~ August 1927 - April 2004
His father, a founder of Tennessee Ornithological Society, inspired a life-long interest in bird study and conservation. Dr. Mayfield served as State President of Tennessee Ornithological Society from 1968 - 1970. He also served as Maury County TOS Chapter President for many terms. In 2002 the chapter was renamed the Mayfield-Gray Chapter in honor of Dr. Mayfield and Dr. Dan Gray. He received the Distinguished Service Award from Tennessee Ornithological Society, as well as Honorary Lifetime Membership in the organization. He became a master bird bander in 1978.